



## **700.17 Guardian/Archangel Program**

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### **POLICY**

The Hendry County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) has established guidelines for authorized Hendry County School District or Hendry County School Board employees and staff, who act as Sheriff's School Guardians under the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program. As volunteers on their respective campuses, HCSO will ensure they are trained and meet the requirements of Florida Statute 30.15. This guardian program will be recognized as the Archangel Program in Hendry County. Archangel and School Guardian terms are interchangeable in policies and MOUs in effect now and in the future.

The sheriff shall issue a school guardian certificate to individuals who meet the requirements of Florida Statute 30.15. The sheriff shall maintain documentation of weapon and equipment inspections, as well as the training, certification, inspection, and qualification records of each school guardian appointed by the sheriff.

Hendry County Sheriff's Office will provide a framework whereby the Hendry County School Superintendent, with concurrence of the School Board, recommends and the Sheriff trains a select individual to participate in the guardian program for the purpose of protecting students, staff, and visitors against active assailants who pose an immediate deadly threat, through a reduced response time.

### **PROCEDURE**

- A. Selection criteria of authorized school guardian program applicants
  1. The Hendry County School District and Sheriff will enter into an agreement outlining the duties and responsibilities of each in regards to the school guardian program.
  2. The Sheriff's Office shall accept recommendations from the Hendry County School District/Superintendent/School Board for guardian applicants who are employed by the District and/or Board and meet the selection requirements.
  3. Applicants agreeing to participate, will receive training by the Sheriff, as outlined in Florida Statutes 30.15, carry a firearm while on campus property and shall:
    - a. Complete and submit an application with the Sheriff's Office Community Service Captain,
    - b. Complete an oral interview, and

- c. Be approved by the Sheriff or his designee.
  - d. A conditional offer of participation listing the remaining conditions shall be issued by the Sheriff or his designee.
4. Sheriff's School Guardian applicants shall:
- a. Undergo an initial drug screening test for detection of illegal drug use prior to final approval for participation and submit to and pass subsequent, random drug screening tests in accordance with the requirements of Florida Statutes 112.0455 and Sheriff's Office policy.
    - 1. The drug screening test shall be performed at a medical laboratory designated by the Sheriff's Office and in compliance with applicable Florida Statutes. Evidence of current illegal drug usage, as indicated by the drug screening test, shall be grounds for withdrawal of the conditional offer of participation. Sheriff's School Guardian applicants who do not successfully pass the drug screening test, without mitigating circumstances, shall not participate in the Sheriff's School Guardian program.
    - 2. A record of the drug-screening test results shall be maintained by the HCSO Human Resources Director.
  - b. Be checked through the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the Florida Crime Information Center (FCIC) to determine eligibility for the Sheriff's School Guardian program.
  - c. Be fingerprinted and processed through the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to determine eligibility for the Sheriff's School Guardian program.
  - d. Successfully pass an emotional/psychological evaluation administered and assessed by a psychologist licensed under Florida Statutes chapter 490, selected by the Sheriff's Office, to determine the Sheriff's School Guardian applicant's suitability.
  - e. Successfully complete 132 total hours of comprehensive firearms safety and proficiency training conducted by Criminal Justice Standards & Training Commission-certified instructors, which must include:
    - 1. 80 hours of firearms instruction based on the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission's Law Enforcement Academy training model, which must include at least 10 percent, but no more than 20 percent, more rounds fired than associated with academy training.
      - a. Program participants must achieve a minimum score of eighty-five percent (85%) pass rate on the firearms training. The qualification shall be completed at the Sheriff's Office Firearms Range, or other designated location.
    - 2. A sixteen (16) hour course of instruction in precision pistol.
    - 3. Eight (8) hours of discretionary shooting instruction using state-of-the-art simulator exercises.
    - 4. Eight (8) hours of instruction in active shooter or assailant scenarios.
    - 5. Eight (8) hours of instruction in defensive tactics.

6. Twelve (12) hours of instruction in legal issues.
  - f. Have a valid Concealed Weapon or Firearm License issued under Florida Statutes 790.06 prior to the conclusion of their training and have the license in their possession while acting in their capacity as a Sheriff's School Guardian/Archangel volunteer.
  - g. Successfully complete at least twelve hours of a certified nationally recognized diversity training program.
- B. Responsibilities and Duties of School Guardians/Archangels
  1. Shall be trained and armed with limited authority as stipulated by their assignment from the Sheriff.
  2. Shall be subject to the General Orders and Department Directives of the Sheriff's Office.
  3. Shall sign an oath recognizing limits, duties and responsibilities.
  4. Shall be issued and carry a firearm on campus.
  5. Shall not be granted authority to affect any arrest or take any law enforcement action unless it is in response to an active armed assailant(s) on campus.
  6. Shall be physically and emotionally able to perform the duties and responsibilities as set forth in the Sheriff's School Guardian program.
  7. Shall make a concerted effort while acting in the normal course of duty to remain anonymous as to their participation in the program. This includes not revealing or displaying their guardian status, equipment or affiliation with the Sheriff's Office, on or off campus.
  8. Shall carry their assigned pistol completely concealed on their person at all times within an approved retention holster. Retention holsters shall be approved by the Sheriff's Office Training Section Commander.
  9. Shall possess and be trained in the use of a pistol and score eighty-five percent (85%) on an approved qualification course at the Sheriff's Office Training Range or designated location.
  10. Shall at all times have on their person a rapid safety banner that has been authorized by the Sheriff or designee.
    - a. Concurrent with the display of a firearm to preserve human life, the guardian volunteer must deploy the rapid safety banner across their torso in a highly visible manner to identify themselves as an authorized Sheriff's School Guardian/Archangel volunteer.
  11. Shall only deploy their assigned firearms during the following instances:
    - a. When the volunteer reasonably believes an active armed assailant(s) is on campus and posing an immediate deadly threat to human life.
    - b. During a training event authorized by the Sheriff's Office, in the presence of a Sheriff's Office certified firearms instructor.
- C. Authorized Firearms, Firearms Accountability, and Firearms Storage
  1. Guardians shall be issued, and carry, a Glock 43 model pistol, as prescribed:
    - a. Semi-automatic
    - b. Safe-action
    - c. Chambered for .9mm caliber and pre-approved by the Sheriff's Office Training Section Armorer.
    - d. Ammunition shall be factory loaded and approved by the Sheriff's Office Training Section.

2. The Sheriff's Office Community Services Captain, Human Resources and/or Training Section shall share and maintain the following documentation:
    - a. A list of all program volunteers who carry a firearm and their primary campus working location.
    - b. The make, model, and serial number of the firearm(s) assigned to guardian volunteers.
    - c. All guardian volunteers' certifications, qualification, inspection and training records.
    - d. A current photograph, not older than two (2) years, of all Guardian program volunteers.
  3. The Sheriff's Office Community Service Captain, or designee, shall cause inspection of all authorized firearms and ammunition quarterly.
    - a. Documentation of said inspections shall be forwarded to the Sheriff's Office Human Resources and Training Section.
  4. A guardian program volunteer who stores or leaves, on a premise (e.g., residence) under the participant's control, a firearm, as defined in Florida Statutes Section 790.001, and who knows or reasonably should know that a minor is likely to gain access to the firearm without the lawful permission of the participant, shall keep the firearm in a securable safe or in a location which a reasonable person would believe to be secure. Sheriff's School Guardian volunteers shall carry and use firearms in a careful and prudent manner in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida, Hendry County Sheriff's Office policy, and the Hendry County School District rules and procedures. It is unlawful and punishable by imprisonment and fine for a Sheriff's School Guardian volunteer to store or leave a firearm under circumstances permitting a minor to gain access to the firearm. This section does not apply if a minor obtains a firearm from a Sheriff's School Guardian volunteer as a result of an unlawful act by the minor.
- D. Mandatory Recertification and Training**
1. Guardian volunteers shall successfully complete ongoing training, as directed by the Sheriff's Office Training Section, related to their assignment no less than annually.
  2. Guardian volunteers shall be required to qualify annually, or on demand, with any firearm that is authorized for their use or carry.
  3. All firearm qualifications shall be performed at the Sheriff's Office Training Range or designated location.
  4. An inspection shall be conducted by the Sheriff's Office Range Master, or designee, of all firearms at the time of qualification. Any firearm found to be defective shall be immediately withdrawn from use, repaired, and shall not be carried until it has been re-inspected by the Sheriff's Office Range Master or Armorer.
  5. A minimum score of eighty-five percent (85%) on the qualification course shall be required to pass and continue participation in the program.
    - a. School Guardian volunteers shall be allowed no more than three (3) attempts to qualify on the same day with a pistol.
- E. Failure to Qualify with an Authorized Firearm(s)**

1. If a School Guardian volunteer fails to qualify with their authorized firearm, the Sheriff's Office range instructor shall immediately notify the Sheriff's Office Community Services Captain.
  2. The Sheriff's Office Community Services Captain, or a designee, shall make immediate verbal notification to the appropriate educational institution's staff.
  3. The Sheriff's School Guardian volunteer shall be suspended from the Sheriff's School Guardian program and not authorized to carry any firearm(s) on campus property.
  4. The Sheriff's Office Training Director shall collect and properly store all assigned firearms and equipment issued to the Sheriff's School Guardian volunteer during the period of suspension.
  5. At the direction of the Sheriff's Office Community Services Captain, the Sheriff's School Guardian volunteer shall respond to the Sheriff's Office training range and perform eight (8) hours of remedial training with a Sheriff's Office certified firearms instructor.
  6. If the Sheriff's School Guardian volunteer does not achieve qualification compliance during the remedial training, they shall be removed from the Sheriff's School Guardian Program.
- F. Sheriff's School Guardian Program Volunteer Termination**
1. Sheriff's School Guardian Program volunteers participate at the will of the Sheriff and may be removed from the program by the Sheriff or his designee for any reason, including but not limited to:
    - a. An arrest or filing of criminal charges against the School Guardian volunteer by a law enforcement agency.
    - b. A School Guardian volunteer being served as the respondent of an injunction for protection.
    - c. A School Guardian volunteer involuntarily placed in a facility for mental health treatment or evaluation under Florida Statutes 394, or a similar circumstance in any other state.
    - d. A School Guardian volunteer being served as the respondent of a Risk Protection order.
    - e. A serious violation of the educational institution's Employee Code of Conduct or applicable policies.
    - f. A violation of a Sheriff's Office General Order or Directive.
  2. Upon termination, the Sheriff's Office Community Services Captain, or a designee, shall immediately notify the appropriate staff at the educational institution and the Sheriff's School Guardian volunteer of the reason(s) for termination.
  3. The Sheriff's School Guardian volunteer shall immediately relinquish all assigned equipment, to include the assigned firearm(s) and the rapid safety banner, to the Sheriff's Office Community Services Captain, or a designee, for proper storage.
  4. The Sheriff's School Guardian volunteer will no longer be authorized to carry firearms on the educational institution's campus.
- G. Sheriff's School Guardian volunteers shall immediately notify the Sheriff's Office Community Services Captain of any arrest or notice that they are being charged with a crime, involuntary admission under the Baker Act, or if they have been served with an**

injunction for protection. Failure to make notification within a reasonable time frame will result in termination and exclusion from future participation in the Sheriff's School Guardian program.

- H. Sheriff's School Guardian volunteers serve at the will of the Sheriff of Hendry County, Florida. As such, the Sheriff reserves the right and possesses the authority to dismiss them from service at any time and for any reason.

## DEFINITIONS

**ASSIGNMENT-** School Guardians/Archangels obtain their status by assignment from the Sheriff as outlined in Florida Statute 30.15, rather than by a contract of employment and serve at the will of the Sheriff.

**CAMPUS** – A single educational institution's building or property owned or controlled, in Hendry County, Florida, by the educational institution that has entered into an agreement with the Hendry County Sheriff's Office for the Sheriff's School Guardian Program and used by the institution in direct support of the institution's educational purposes.

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION** – A primary school, secondary school, or post-secondary school that provides a program of instruction acceptable for credit towards a degree.

**DRUG TESTING-** A medical test procedure (i.e., urinalysis, hair sample, blood testing, etc.) utilized to screen for the presence of controlled substances.

**SHERIFF'S SCHOOL GUARDIAN/ARCHANGEL** – An employee or staff member of the Hendry County School District or Hendry County School Board who volunteer to attend and complete required training and is willing to be armed for the sole purpose of responding to and eliminating an active shooter in order to protect students and staff on school property.

## REFERENCES

State/Federal Regulations:

Florida Statute 30.15  
Florida Statutes 112.0455  
Florida Statutes 394  
Florida Statutes 490  
Florida Statutes 790.001  
Florida Statutes 790.06  
Florida Statutes 1006.12

CFA:

None

Forms:

700.17-01 School Guardian Program Applicants

Other Policy/Procedure References:

None